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**ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates generally to an assay for the detection of toxicants. More particularly, the present invention contemplates an assay of toxicants such as those of the type comprising heavy metal, heavy metal divalent cations and organic molecules as well as organo-halides. Such toxicants are frequently present as contaminants in aquatic and terrestrial environments. The present invention further provides an assay device for detecting toxicants. The present invention is predicated in part on the sensitivity of binding partner affinity to the toxicants.